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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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85<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018

**Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for the period January 2018 – March 2018**

**Progress report by the Secretariat on the implementation of COP 20 Decisions**

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Athens, 2018





Contracting Parties and relevant partners for submission of the conclusions of these discussions to COP 21 for its consideration;									
<b>Endorse</b> the list of new Mediterranean Action Plan partners, set out in Annex II to the present decision;	<b>GREEN</b>								
<b>Request</b> the Specially Protected Area Regional Activity Centre to prepare on a trial basis, a meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity for the biennium 2018–2019, under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit, to achieve the greatest possible integration with the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy;	<b>YELLOW</b>								
<b>Also request</b> the Coordinating Unit to present the results of the assessment of that trial, together with any other relevant analysis, to the Contracting Parties prior to their twenty-first meeting;	<b>ORANGE</b>								
<b>Urge</b> the Coordinating Unit, in consultation with the Contracting Parties hosting Regional Activity Centres, to find and propose, under the guidance of the Bureau, ways and means to address a list of common reference provisions to be applied, taking into account the specificities of each Centre, with a view to have a discussion and a possible agreement by the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting;	<b>YELLOW</b>								
<b>Reiterate</b> the importance of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II) document and its relevance for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean, as well as its contribution to sustainable development; and decides to retain at this stage the original text of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II as approved by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols (Barcelona, 9-10 June 1995);	<b>GREEN</b>								
<b>Invite</b> the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan Secretariat to continue its involvement and contribution to the global debate on issues related to its mandate including Sustainable Development Goal 14, Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, follow-up to the Paris Agreement and Convention on Biological	<b>YELLOW</b>								

	<p>Diversity and to present to COP 21 any updates from global fora of relevance to the Mediterranean Action Plan system and its future;</p>									
	<p><i>Confirm</i> the current composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development for the biennium 2018–2019 as set out in decision IG.22/17, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their nineteenth meeting, and call upon the members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Mediterranean Action Plan partners to mobilize expressions of interest in membership of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development for the biennium 2020–2021.</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
<p><b>Decision IG.23/4</b></p> <p><b>Implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean</b></p>	<p><i>Welcome</i> the work and take note of the list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard for the monitoring of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, set out in Annex I to the present decision, as a basis for further work, and invites the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to coordinate the work on ensuring full consistency and synergy with the ongoing work on Sustainable Development Goal indicators at the global level, within the context of the leading role of the Barcelona Convention system of the Mediterranean Action Plan in facilitating the coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14, in the Mediterranean region and in ensuring the transition towards the green and blue economy;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
	<p><i>Request</i> the Secretariat and Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre to use existing sources of information and reliable data to populate the selected indicators, giving priority to those addressing coast-related and sea-related issues;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
	<p><i>Encourage</i> the Contracting Parties to strengthen efforts to build sustainable partnerships with relevant stakeholders (such as international governmental organizations, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations, industry, business organizations and academic institutions) for the development or refining of statistical databases for populating Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
	<p><i>Encourage</i> the Contracting Parties to participate in future editions of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism, taking into account the lessons learned from the 2016–2017 exercise</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								





	<p><i>Urge</i> the Mediterranean Action Plan system and the Contracting Parties in the context of the work of the EcAp governance structure to undertake priority activities needed to ensure successful delivery of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report;</p>	<p><b>ORANGE</b></p>								
	<p><i>Request</i> the Secretariat to develop synergies between the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria and related common indicators, and the ongoing work by the United Nations and Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations on indicators monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Goal 14, and to share the Mediterranean experience at the global level;</p>	<p><b>ORANGE</b></p>								
	<p><i>Take note</i> of the proposed update of the pollution assessment criteria and thresholds as presented in Annex II to the present Decision and encourage the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to test them for indicative purposes in the different contexts that exist in the Mediterranean.</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
<p><b>Decision IG.23/7</b>  <b>Implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol: Annotated Structure of the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning</b></p>	<p><i>Urge</i> the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to ratify the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean as early as possible with a view to ensuring its entry into force for the entire Mediterranean region;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
	<p><i>Decide</i> to establish an Open-ended Working Group of Experts with the mandate to finalize the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, based on the Annotated Structure to integrate and complement it, if needed, in accordance with the timetable set out in Annex I to the present decision, for submission to the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
	<p><i>Take note</i> of the Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning contained in Annex II to the present decision, as a guiding document to facilitate the introduction of this management tool into the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management through the relevant regional framework and within the system of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
	<p><i>Urge</i> the Contracting Parties to continue their work in developing or updating their National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategies;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								







<p><b>Amendments to Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean</b></p>	<p><i>Request</i> the Depositary to communicate without delay to all Contracting Parties the adopted amendments, pursuant to article 23 (2) (iii) of the Barcelona Convention.</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
<p><b><u>Decision IG.23/11</u></b>  <b>Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents</b></p>	<p><i>Adopt</i> the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents, contained in the Annex to the present decision and hereinafter referred to as the “Guide”;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
	<p><i>Urge</i> the Contracting Parties to take the necessary measures to incorporate the procedures defined in the Guide into their national, bilateral and multilateral systems of preparedness and response to marine pollution;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
	<p><i>Recommend</i> to the Contracting Parties to regularly test those procedures during communication and full-scale exercises;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
	<p><i>Welcome</i> the constructive dialogue established with relevant stakeholders to optimize synergies and coordination on response and assistance in case of major accidental pollution in the Mediterranean;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
	<p><i>Request</i> the Secretariat to explore financial resources, including support from Contracting Parties, to prepare a printed publication of the Guide to facilitate its use and to develop an electronic version of the operational part of the Guide, which would facilitate requests for assistance.</p>	<p><b>ORANGE</b></p>								
<p><b><u>Decision IG.23/12</u></b>  <b>Updated Guidelines on</b></p>	<p><i>Adopt</i> the Updated Guidelines on Management of Dredged Materials, set out in the Annex to the present decision, which replace the 1999 Guidelines;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
	<p><i>Request</i> the Contracting Parties to make every effort to ensure their effective implementation, bearing in mind that when assessing the suitability of management</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								



	<p><b>Further</b> encourage the Contracting Parties to identify, promote and strengthen the synergies and mechanisms of cooperation with the desalination industry and other relevant stakeholders to ensure a sustainable and integrated desalination management in the Mediterranean region;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>								
	<p><b>Request</b> the Secretariat to facilitate the work of the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Updated Guidelines on the Management of Desalination Activities, by seeking cooperation and reinforcing synergies in that area with Mediterranean Action Plan components and in collaboration with the European Union Horizon 2020 regional programme;</p>	<p><b>ORANGE</b></p>								
	<p><b>Also request</b> the Secretariat to establish strategic partnerships with the desalination industry and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of facilitating access to data and knowledge exchange on best available techniques and best environmental practices for desalination activities in the Mediterranean region.</p>	<p><b>ORANGE</b></p>								
<p><b>Decision IG.23/14</b>  Programme of Work and Budget for 2018–2019</p>	<p><b>Approve</b> the Programme of Work and Budget for 2018–2019 as set out in the Annex to the present decision;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
	<p><b>Also</b> approve the budget appropriations, as set out in table 1 “Overview of income and commitments” of the annex to the present decision, in the amount of 13,886,051 euros composed of the Mediterranean Trust Fund of 11,413,576 euros the European Union discretionary contribution of 1,192,968 euros and the host country contribution of 800,000 United States dollars, inclusive of the amount set aside to cover the deficit in the host Government contribution account and the savings of 545,107 euro from the Mediterranean Trust Fund from previous biennium;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
	<p><b>Further approve</b> the assessed 2018–2019 ordinary contributions from Contracting Parties shown in table 2 “Expected Ordinary Income” of the Annex to the present decision, which reflects the 2016–2018 scale of assessment adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventieth session on 23 December 2015 by resolution 70/245 and confirms the importance of keeping the scale used for ordinary contributions up to date;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
	<p><b>Request</b> the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								

<p>Environment Programme, to extend the Mediterranean Trust Fund until 31 December 2019;</p>									
<p><b>Approve</b> the staffing of the Coordinating Unit, including the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean for the biennium 2018–2019, as indicated in table 4a “Details of Salaries and Administrative Costs of the Secretariat” in the Annex to the present decision;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
<p><b>Welcome</b> the offer of Italy to provide support for a post of Information and Communications Officer in the Coordinating Unit during the biennium 2018–2019 from the Italian bilateral agreement which will allow the Contracting Parties to further consider the long-term need for that post;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
<p><b>Take note</b> of the staffing of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea for the biennium 2018–2019 as indicated in table 4c “Details of salaries and administrative costs (REMPEC)”, set out in the Annex to the present decision;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
<p><b>Authorize</b> the Coordinating Unit to charge the one-time cost of the move to the new premises during the biennium 2018–2019 to the savings achieved during the biennium 2016– 2017, keeping the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention fully informed;</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>								
<p><b>Urge</b> the Contracting Parties to pay their contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund in accordance with procedure 4.2 of the Financial Rules and Procedures to allow for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Work;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>
<p><b>Request</b> the Secretariat to keep up-to-date information on the status of contributions of the Contracting Parties to the Mediterranean Trust Fund and to continue to post it in a publicly available place on the Mediterranean Action Plan website;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>
<p><b>Urge</b> the Contracting Parties to adhere to nomination deadlines of their representatives in meetings of the Mediterranean Action Plan system and to avoid late cancellation of their travel in order to minimize the financial implications and losses arising from the increase in airfare and cancellation fees;</p>	<p><b>YELLOW</b></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>

	<p><i>Urge</i> the Contracting Parties to consider increasing their voluntary contributions in cash or in kind in support of the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2018–2019;</p>	<b>YELLOW</b>								
	<p><i>Invite</i> other partners, including industry, to contribute adequate human and financial resources to meet the external funding requirements for priorities still unfunded under the Programme of Work and Budget for 2018–2019 and to support the resource mobilization activities of the Secretariat;</p>	<b>GREEN</b>								
	<p><i>Request</i> the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare for consideration and approval by the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting two alternatives for a simplified and more strategic results-based Programme of Work and Budget for 2020–2021. These proposals should be in line with the relevant provisions of the “Governance Paper” and Decision IG. 19/5 of COP 16, in full alignment with the Mid-term Strategy, and take into account the progress achieved during the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2018–2019, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which it is based, draw attention to significant changes between 2018-2019 and the 2020-2021 Programme of Work and provide a summary analysis and narrative explanations of the budget tables showing the share of the core Mediterranean Trust Fund going to each theme of the Mid-Term Strategy, as well as of the external secured and non-secured funding.</p>	<b>ORANGE</b>								
	<p>The alternatives should take into account the continued existence of a surplus in the Mediterranean Trust Fund which should be used to ensure that contributions remain level. The alternatives should: a. make an assessment of the required rate of growth for the core expenditure budget which should not exceed a 4% increase from the 2018-2019 biennium; b. maintain the core expenditure budget at the 2018-2019 level in nominal terms.</p>	<b>ORANGE</b>								